

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): An ink jet recording apparatus comprising:  
  
image forming means for forming an image on a recording medium by ejecting ink containing a solvent and color particles dispersed in said solvent;  
  
fixing means for fixing said image formed on said recording medium by said image forming means;  
  
collecting means for selectively collecting air containing said solvent from an atmosphere in proximity to said fixing means; and  
  
removing means for removing said solvent from said solvent-containing air collected by said collecting means,  
  
wherein at least a portion of said fixing means is positioned inside of said collecting means.
2. (original): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1,  
  
wherein said collecting means includes shield means for shielding at least a region in proximity to said fixing means.

3. (original): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein said collecting means includes suction means for sucking and collecting said solvent-containing air from the region shielded by said shield means.
4. (original): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein said collecting means includes blowing means for blowing said solvent-containing air in the region shielded by said shield means to an opening of said collecting means.
5. (original): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein said fixing means includes a heating section that heats and fixes said image formed on said recording medium by said image forming means, and  
wherein said shield means shields at least a region in proximity to said heating section.
6. (original): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:  
preliminary heating means for preliminary heating said recording medium on which said image has been formed by said image forming means using air which has been collected by said collecting means and from which said solvent has been removed by said removing means, or heat of said air, prior to heating and fixing by said fixing means, said preliminary heating means being provided between said image forming means and said fixing means.

7. (original): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 5,  
wherein said recording medium on which said image has been formed by said image forming means is preliminary heated using air which has been collected by said collecting means and from which said solvent has been removed by said removing means, or heat of said air, to assist fixing of said image by said fixing means.

8. (original): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
drying means for drying said recording medium on which said image has been formed by said image forming means using air which has been collected by said collecting means and from which said solvent has been removed by said removing means, or heat of said air.

9. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said collecting means includes a curved hood.

10. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the fixing means is positioned between said recording medium and said collecting means when said image is fixed by said fixing means.

11. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said collecting means includes a hood, and said at least a portion of said fixing means is disposed inside of an area defined by the hood.

12. (new): An ink jet recording apparatus comprising:

an ejection head which forms an image on a recording medium by ejecting ink containing a solvent and color particles dispersed in said solvent;

a heating device which fixes said image formed on said recording medium by said ejection head;

a hood which selectively collects air containing said solvent from an atmosphere in proximity to said heating device; and

a solvent removing device which removes said solvent from said solvent-containing air collected by said hood,

wherein at least a portion of said heating device is positioned inside of said hood.

13. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 12,

wherein said hood comprises a shield which shields at least a region in proximity to said heating device.

14. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 13,

wherein said hood is in communication with a suction device which sucks and collects said solvent-containing air from the region shielded by said shield.

15. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a blower which blows said solvent-containing air to an opening of said hood.

16. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 13,  
wherein said heating device heats and fixes said image formed on said recording medium  
by said ejection head, and  
wherein said shield shields at least a region in proximity to said heating device.

17. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:  
a preliminary heater which preliminarily heats said recording medium on which said  
image has been formed by said ejection head using air which has been collected by said hood  
and from which said solvent has been removed by said solvent removing device, prior to heating  
and fixing by said heating device, said preliminary heater being provided between said ejection  
head and said heating device.

18. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 16,  
wherein said recording medium on which said image has been formed by said ejection  
head is preliminarily heated using air which has been collected by said hood and from which said  
solvent has been removed by said solvent removing device, to assist fixing of said image by said  
heating device.

19. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:  
a dryer which dries said recording medium on which said image has been formed by said  
ejection head using air which has been collected by said hood and from which said solvent has  
been removed by said solvent removing device.

20. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said hood is curved.

21. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein at least a portion of said heating device is positioned between said recording medium and said hood when said image is fixed by said heating device.

22. (new): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said hood has a curved shape, and said at least a portion of said heating device is disposed inside of an area defined by the curved shape of the hood.